INSIDER™

DARK HORSE COMICS NO.12 DECEMBER 1992

SCULPTOR RANDY BOWEN:
Dark Horse's master monster maker!

THE BRITISH ARE COMING
First-time offerings from Dark Horse International

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR 2
Another spine-chilling installment by Stradley and Warner!

SNEAK PREVIEW
- *Aliens: Colonial Marines*

...AND MORE!

On the cover: Virus cover art by Mike Ploog

DARK HORSE COMICS

INSIDE THE INSIDER

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FRONT COVER ART
BY MIKE PLOOG,
FROM *VIRUS* #1

BACK COVER ART
BY RICHARD SALA,
FROM *THIRTEEN O' CLOCK*

INSIDE FRONT COVER ART
BY KYLE BAKER,
FROM *THE RESIDENTS: FREAK SHOW*

INSIDE BACK COVER ART
BY BRUCE ZICK,
FROM *TERMINAL POINT* #1

EDITOR: KRIS YOUNG
PROOFREADER: SUZANNE TAYLOR
DESIGN & PRODUCTION: EGON SELBY

VIRUS #1 (OF 4)

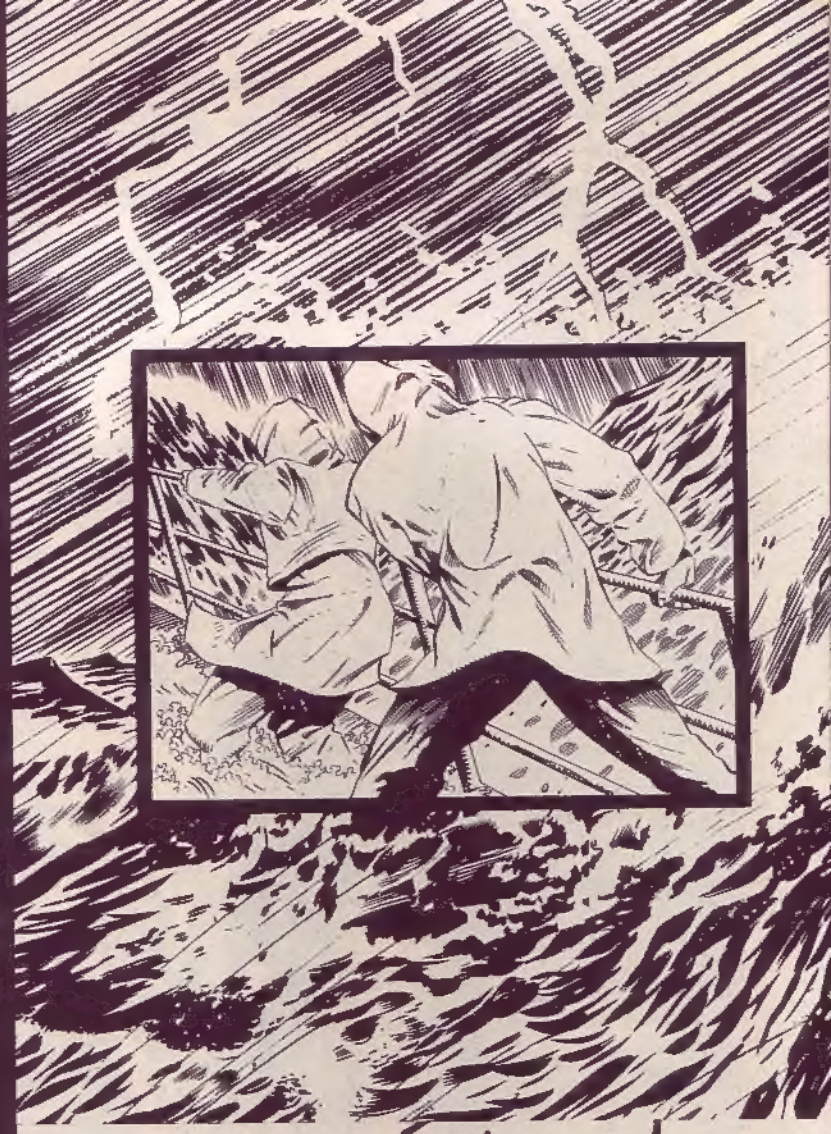
Don't worry about catching this virus — it will catch you! When the crew of the ocean-going tug *The Electra* run across an abandoned Chinese radar ship adrift in the Pacific, it seems like their ticket to Easy Street: maritime law says they can lay claim to the ship and the millions of dollars worth of top secret electronics on it! However, collecting on those millions is easier said than done. The *Wan Xuan* may be abandoned, but it's far from deserted. Something is alive inside the ship's computers, and it's building monstrous bodies for itself from pieces of machinery and the corpses of the hapless Chinese crew!

This all-new science fiction/horror series is created and written by **Chuck Pfarrer** (*The Thing from Another World*), pencilled by **Howard Cobb** and inked by **Jimmy Palmiotti**. Cover by **Mike Ploog**.

Suggested for mature readers.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages, color cover.

Bimonthly. Shipping December 15, 1992.



ROBOCOP: PRIME SUSPECT #3 (OF 4)

"Insane Izzy's" murder has divided the ranks of the Detroit police department. The only possible suspect is one of their own: RoboCop, who is too busy holding off Matthew Zieske's new ZED-309s to defend himself. Marie has discovered the key to RoboCop's innocence... but will she survive long enough to tell him?

Script by **John Arcudi** (*The Mask Returns*), pencils by **John Paul Leon** ("RoboCop" in *DHC*), inks by **Jeff Albrecht** ("RoboCop" in *DHC*), and colors by **Matt Webb** (*John Byrne's Next Men*) together with painted covers by **Nelson** (*RoboCop 3* movie adaptation)!

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping December 15, 1992

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR
(HARDCOVER COLLECTION)

It's the battle of the century...in a box! This special limited edition of the *Aliens vs. Predator* collection sports a custom hardcover and slipcase designed for the rigors of space travel and attacks from extraterrestrial life forms. Written by **Randy Stradley** with art by **Phill Norwood**, **Chris Warner**, **Karl Story**, and **Bruce Campanella**. Limited to 1,000 copies. Get yours now!

$75.00 U.S., $90.00 Canada.
176 color pages. Smythe-sewn hardcover. slipcase.

Also available in softcover, second printing.
$19.95 U.S., $23.95 Canada.

Shipping December 1, 1992.

ALIENS™
VS.
PREDATOR™

CLASSIC STAR WARS #5

After crash-landing their stolen Imperial ship, Luke and his newfound companion Tanith Shire are captured and enslaved by the Serpent Masters of Tanith's home planet. Artoo and Threepio are out of commission and the Millennium Falcon is light-years away, leaving Luke to find his own means of escape — with nothing but his wit, his skill, and his trusty lightsaber at hand!

This material, originally printed in the early 1980s as newspaper strips by writer **Archie Goodwin** and artist **Al Williamson**, is being published completely in color for the first time with the help of colorist **Steve Buccellato** (*The Terminator: The Enemy Within*). Williamson also provides a new cover for this issue, and is redrawing portions of the interior art to fit comic-book proportions.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages,
color cover.

Monthly. Shipping
December 1, 1992.

CLASSIC STAR WARS

GRENDEL: WAR CHILD #5 (OF 10)

Is the young heir Jupiter Assante really dead? That's the official word to the world at large, while in fact Grendel arrives with Jupiter in Africa. There they encounter tainted river water and some not-so-friendly natives. While the politics heat up stateside, Grendel goes mano a mano against King Kong's double! It's another exciting chapter in this final *Grendel* saga as we journey to Africa with the "Devil on the Veldt"! Created, written, and inked by **Matt Wagner**, with dynamic pencil art by **Patrick McEown** and beautiful animation-cel style color art by **Bernie Mireault**. It's all topped off with a knockout cover painting by **Wagner**.

Suggested for mature readers. This issue contains mature language.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages,
painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping
December 1, 1992.

GRENDEL™

war child

THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES #10

Indy's off to Vienna with two unusual spies, hoping to obtain a secret letter that will help them bring an end to the war that is destroying both France and Austria. The new spies may be inept, but they have an advantage Indy can't hope to match... the Empress of Austria is their sister. They're a royal pain, and though he may want to strangle them, Indy has to help keep them alive.

This episode is brought to you by master storyteller **Dan Barry** (who provides art and cover). *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* is adapted from the ABC-TV teleplay.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping December 8, 1992.

JOHN BYRNE'S NEXT MEN #10

What a way to spend Christmas — hip deep in Siberian snow at the heart of Mother Russia, facing your own out-of-control Soviet counterparts. That's where the Next Men find themselves for the holidays, except for Danny, who has headed south for the winter to meet... "Mom?" "M4" continues, with more of Mark's beguiling story.

Every little line and word by **John Byrne**, with colors by **Matt Webb**, and cover by Byrne.

Suggested for mature readers.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping December 8, 1992.

NEXUS: ALIEN JUSTICE #1 (OF 3)

Baron and Rude are back! The long-awaited reunion of Nexus creators Mike Baron (*The Punisher*) and Steve "The Dude" Rude (*World's Finest*) continues with "Return to Thuneworld," the first issue of an all-new miniseries! When Nexus and his buddy Dave journey to Dave's home planet in search of long-lost friends, they find that things have changed for the worse since their last visit: the once-thriving world has been ravaged by pollution and famine that seem to be spreading from a mysterious factory. Is this merely another case of industry run amuck, or do ancient Thune legends of a planet-devouring creature somehow figure into the picture? All this plus one big, four-armed surprise, courtesy of writer **Mike Baron**, penciller/cover artist **Steve Rude**, inker **Gary Martin**, and colorist **Nöelle Giddings**!

$3.95 U.S., $4.75 Canada. 48 color pages (no ads!), saddle-stitched deluxe format, painted front and back covers.

Monthly. Shipping December 1, 1992.

HERBIE #4

The Fat Fury faces his greatest challenge... hypnotic bowling balls! Can Herbie save his dad from prison? Can he foil the evil plans of the villainous Black Whack Diddlehoffer? A special double-sized sixteen-page story contains the answers.

Also, Herbie goes to Paris to match wits with international spies in the classic tale "Beware of the B-Bomb, Buster!". Written by **Shane O' Shea**, and illustrated by **Ogden Whitney**.

Plus, Herbie and the Flaming Carrot team up in the exciting conclusion of "The Boobs of Avon," written and illustrated by **Bob Burden**. This issue featuares a brilliant cover by fan-favorite artist **Art Adams**.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages, color cover.

Monthly. Shipping December 15, 1992.

THE MASK RETURNS #4 (OF 4)

No one is safe as the most surprising Mask of all battles the most dangerous villain the world has ever seen... Walter! Only Lt. Kellaway knows the secret of this new Mask, but can he save her from Walter's wrath? Find out in the exciting conclusion to this four-issue series. Written by **John Arcudi** and illustrated by **Doug Mahnke**.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages, painted cover.

Shipping December 1, 1992.

BIG JERK OF EDITOR WANTED SWELL STORY FOR THIS ISSUE--AS IF ALL HERBIE STORIES AREN'T SWELL! AND THIS ONE'S TRUE, ALL ABOUT ME... REAL THRILLER-DILLER CALLED
"PLUMP LUMP VS. BLACK WHACK!"
STORY: "STRANGER, THE NAME'S SHANE O'SHEA!"
ART: "JUST LI'L OL' ME-- OGDEN WHITNEY!"

RICHARD SALA'S

THIRTEEN O'CLOCK

Eyes are watching from a hidden room... An unknown killer is prowling the night. An evil chuckle echoes down a shadowy corridor. In the tower, the bell is ringing. It's... *Thirteen O'Clock*, the latest deranged pulp nightmare from alternative-comics maestro **Richard Sala**! You've seen his fevered visions in the pages of *Raw*, *Blab*, and *Buzz*, and his animated serial, "Invisible Hands," mesmerized a nation of video slaves on MTV's *Liquid Television*. *Thirteen O'Clock* collects the exploits of Sala's mysterious figure of the night, Mr. Monroe, from *Deadline USA*, along with new Monroe material seen nowhere else on this planet! Follow Sala's masked avenger as he descends into the city's stygian depths to unlock its unholy secrets behind the Corkscrew Murders. Join Mr. Monroe, Evil Eve, The Wheezer, Lt. Sedan, Dr. Verlorene, and the head of Zolok in this tableau of dread, death, and darkness!

$2.95 U.S., $3.50 Canada
40 B&W pages (no ads!)
deluxe format, painted cover

Shipping December 22
1992

THIRTEEN O'CLOCK
In his penthouse laboratory, high above the black waters of the bay, Verlorene reveals the result of his secret experiment to Dr Lynx.
Behold! The formula you and your late colleagues pieced together has proven successful. The head of Zolok lives!
Now I understand, Verlorene... you're mad! Mad!
GAH!

RING OF ROSES #2 (OF 4)

[illegible] been [illegible] Catholic [illegible] the Pope [illegible] Jan Lewis' daughter and something else unknown to the world — the Illuminati. Written by **Das Petrou** [illegible] by **John Watkis** (*Sandman*, *Pig*, *Rose*) stake the reader [illegible] is [illegible] one of [illegible]

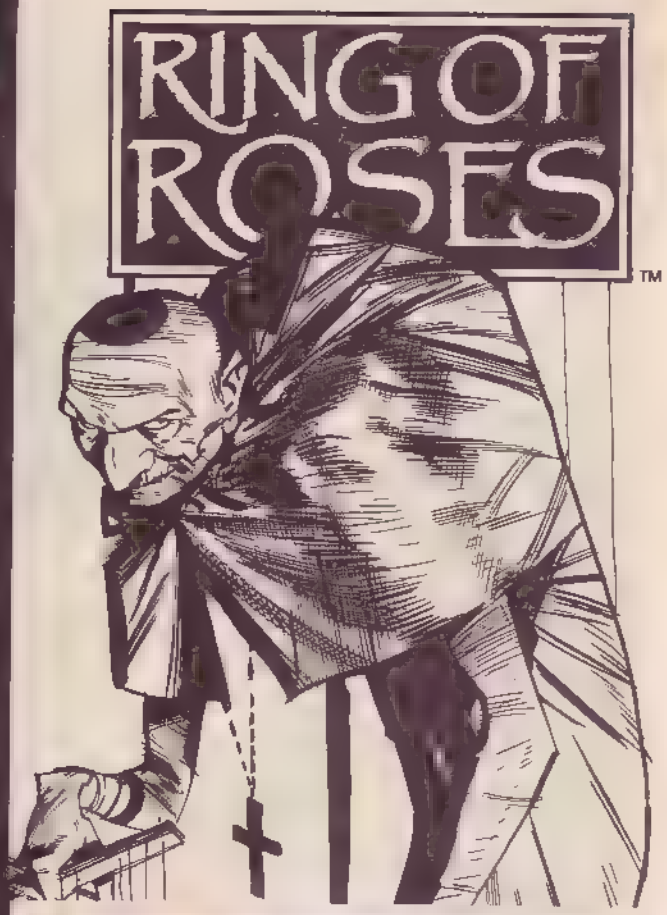
$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada
32 B&W [illegible] pages, saddle-st[illegible] cover

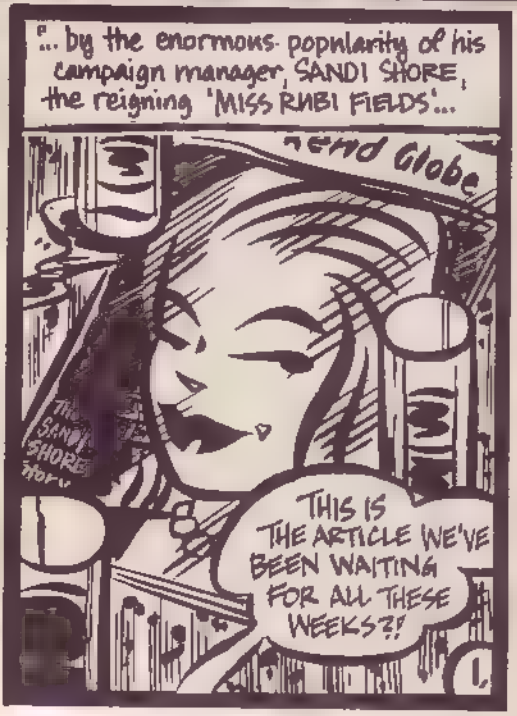
Monthly. Shipping December 1, 1992

THE NEW FRONTIER #3 (OF 3)

[illegible] has the nation enthralled [illegible] is that obsess[illegible] chain of violent event[illegible] [illegible] does this [illegible] Wayne's presidential campaign? Where is [illegible] over [illegible] [illegible] puzzle all [illegible] into place in the surprising conclusion [illegible] quirky tale [illegible] by **John Sabljic** and **Michael Cherkas**, with illustrations by Cherkas.

$2.75 U.S., $3.50 Canada
32 B&W pages, color cove[illegible]




"... by the enormous popularity of his campaign manager, SANDI SHORE, the reigning 'MISS RUBI FIELDS'...
Trend Globe
THIS IS THE ARTICLE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ALL THESE WEEKS?!

THE MINOTAUR'S TALE

In the original classic tale, only the Minotaur was a terrible beast half-man, half-bull, who feasted on human flesh and was finally slain by the noble hero Theseus. But that is only one version of the story. There is also the Minotaur's tale, as told by the Minotaur.

"Banshee" is a deformed young man recovering from a savage beating when he is first given Minotaur's story by a kindly friend. "As a modern-day monster," he finds it raises questions that he did not even know existed about his own life. Questions regarding myths and truth, oneness and beauty, contentment and power. The book's pages contain some of the answers to such questions, but "Banshee" finds out even more, that not only does he have talent but also the ability to change things himself.

In his autobiography, *Inside Spike Cage*, **Al Davison** described how he overcame spina bifida well enough not only to be able to walk, but also to practice martial arts, become involved in contemporary dance and theatre, write plays, and work as a full-time artist. In *The Minotaur's Tale*, he has fictionalized much of his own experience to create a new world full of warmth, danger, humor, and humanity.

$11.95 U.S., $14.50 Canada
80 painted color pages, 8-1/2 x 11-1/4", squarebound, painted cover

ISBN 0-9[illegible]-[illegible]-X

PRIMAL #2

A lone Riven has come into our world to feed. Her journey takes her to Plimoth, a re-creation of Salem, Massachusetts and history starts to repeat itself. T.J. Cyrus comes face to face with his fear of fire and Air Force Captain Shankar makes some changes. Story by **Clive Barker, D.G. Chichester,** and **Erik Saltzgaber**. Painted art by **Lionel Talaro** (*Revelations*) and special photo art cover by **J. K. Potter**.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada
32 painted color pages
special photo art cover

Shipping December 1992

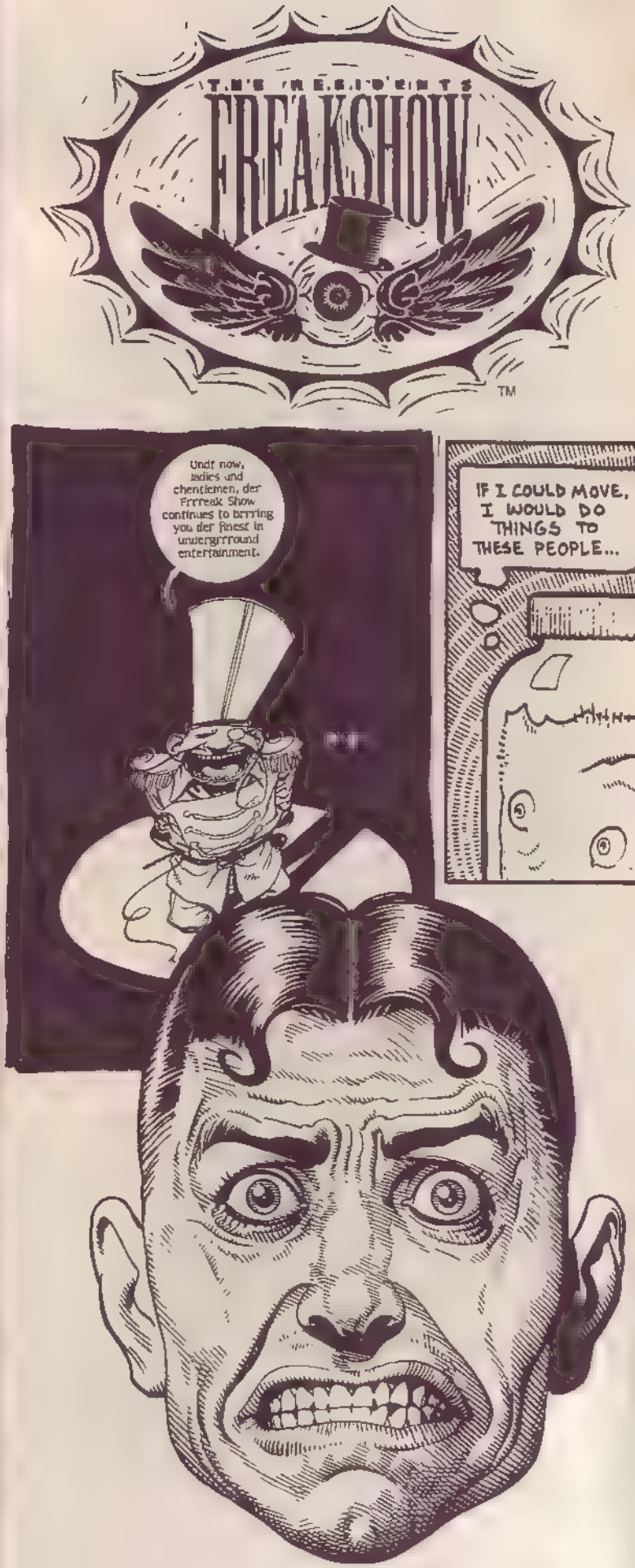
PRIMAL™

THE RESIDENTS: FREAK SHOW LIMITED EDITION

Step right up and see the freaks, what music they make! That's right, not just a limited edition of the coolest book this year (just in time for Christmas, yet) but a CD of a new tune by The Residents included in the package! What not enough? How about comics by some of the finest creators in the world: **Kyle Baker**, **Brian Bolland**, **John Bolton**, **Matt Howarth**, **Dave McKean**, **Pore No Graphics**, **Richard Sala**, and **Savage Pencil**? Still not satisfied? How about a full color pop-up (that comes out of the book) by **Charles Burns**? Makes a perfect gift. Order before midnight.

Suggested for mature readers.

$79.95 U.S., $95.95 Canada
80 color and B&W pages, CD and pop-up in 9x12 hardcover with slipcase

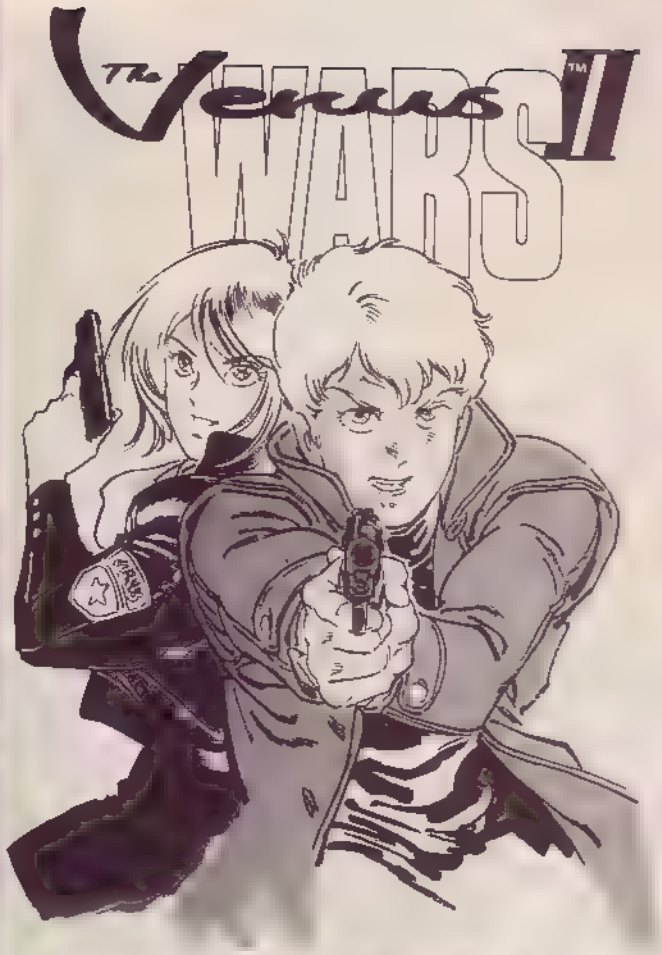

THE RESIDENTS
FREAKSHOW
TM
Undt now, ladies und chentlemen, der Frrreak Show continues to brrring you der finest in undergrrround entertainment.
IF I COULD MOVE, I WOULD DO THINGS TO THESE PEOPLE...

THE VENUS WARS II #7

Lupica Matthews' former flame, Beata Hasty, thereafter shooting Helen MacLuhan at the Terran Consulate. Manipulated tenkū by Rado, Lujsa has acted in order to spare Matthew's. Now she finds her own life in danger by the double-crossing Rado. While Matthew and Lupica race to the rescue, so do doctors as they operate to save Helen's life! Story and art by **Yoshikazu Yasuhiko**. Translation by **Alan Gleason** and **Toren Smith**. All-new cover illustration by fan-favorite **Brian Stelfreeze** and **Karl Story**.

$2.25 U.S., $2.75 Canada
32 B&W pages, painted cover

Monthly. Shipping December 1, 1992



CARAVAN KIDD #6

It's a cold winter evening, and Baba's roped Wakan into selling gaudy "winter" parka to unsuspecting customers... but there's another, more chilling danger — the Lemures Swan has caught up with Mac Fang! The two face off in a savage sword fight! Story, art and painted cover by **Johji Manabe**. Translation by **Dana Lewis** and **Toren Smith**.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada
32 B&W pages (no ads!), painted cover

Shipping December 1, 1992

VERSION #1.1

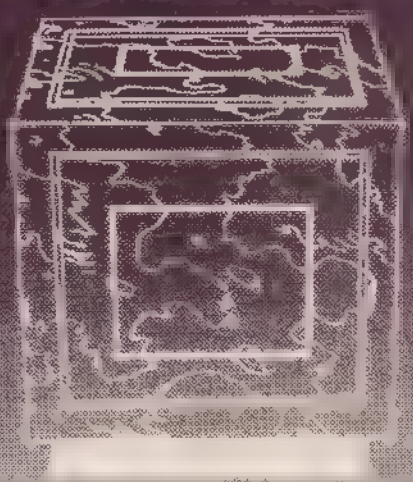
A hard-bitten Japanese P.I. and a scientist's daughter travel to Australia to unravel the mystery of a sentient biochip! A secret research project has gone awry, and both the biochip and Eiko Hanabi's father have disappeared. Together with detective Happo Ishiaki, they uncover an incredibly tangled trail. Who is the mysterious stranger who contacts Happo? What is the sinister organization behind the proceedings? And what does a mermaid have to do with all this?

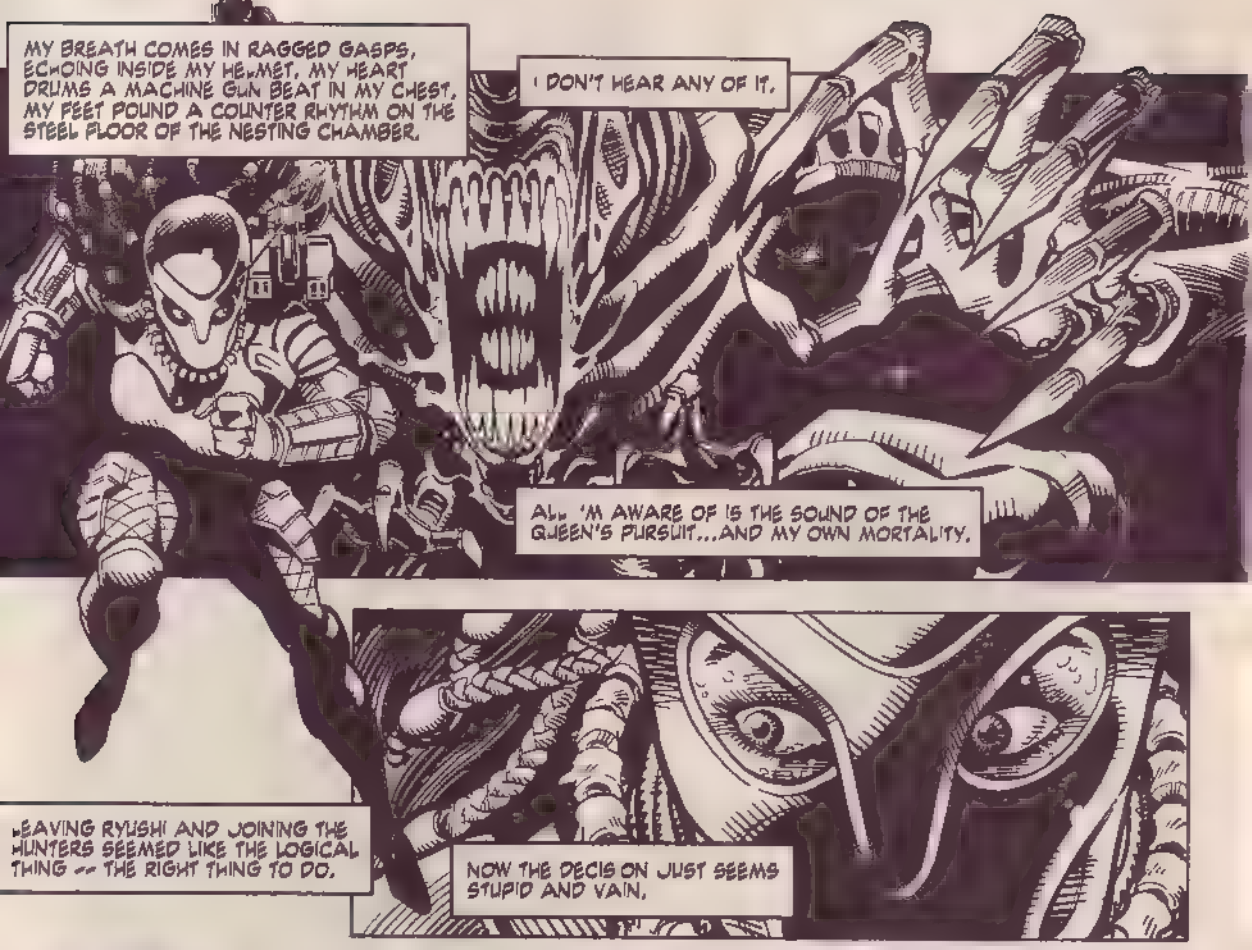
Written and illustrated by **Hisashi Sakaguchi** with translation by **Toren Smith** and **Alan Gleason**

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada
32 B&W pages (no ads!)
color cover

Monthly Shipping
December 15, 1992

VERSION™

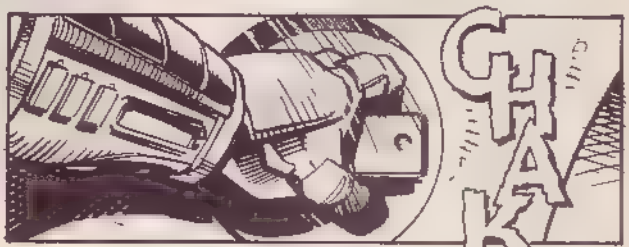



MY BREATH COMES IN RAGGED GASPS, ECHOING INSIDE MY HELMET. MY HEART DRUMS A MACHINE GUN BEAT IN MY CHEST. MY FEET POUND A COUNTER RHYTHM ON THE STEEL FLOOR OF THE NESTING CHAMBER.
I DON'T HEAR ANY OF IT.
ALL I'M AWARE OF IS THE SOUND OF THE QUEEN'S PURSUIT...AND MY OWN MORTALITY.

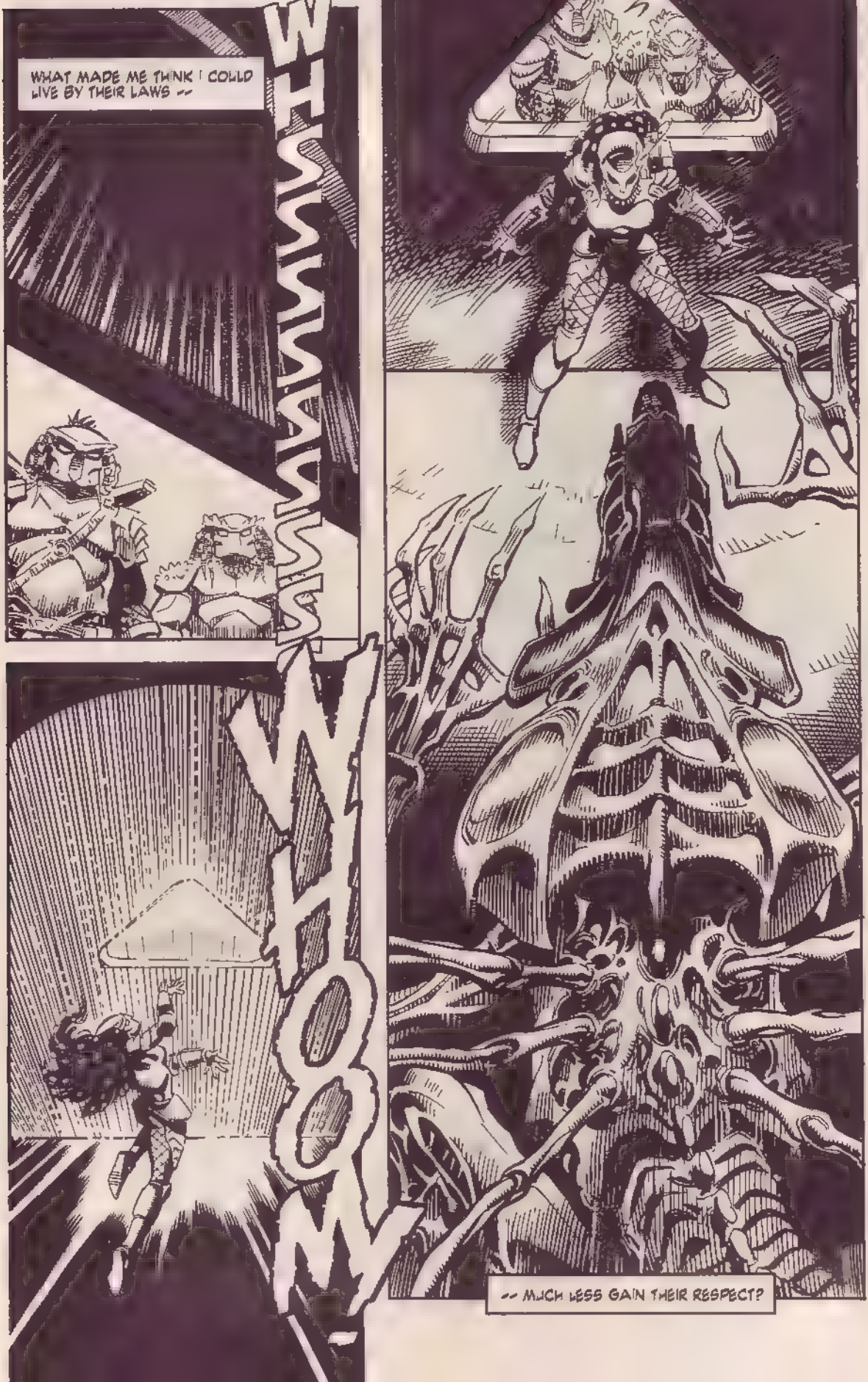
LEAVING RYUSHI AND JOINING THE HUNTERS SEEMED LIKE THE LOGICAL THING -- THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
NOW THE DECISION JUST SEEMS STUPID AND VAIN.

WHAT MADE ME THINK THAT I COULD MATCH THE WAYS OF THESE HALF-SAVAGES?

WHAT DID I HOPE TO PROVE TO MYSELF?

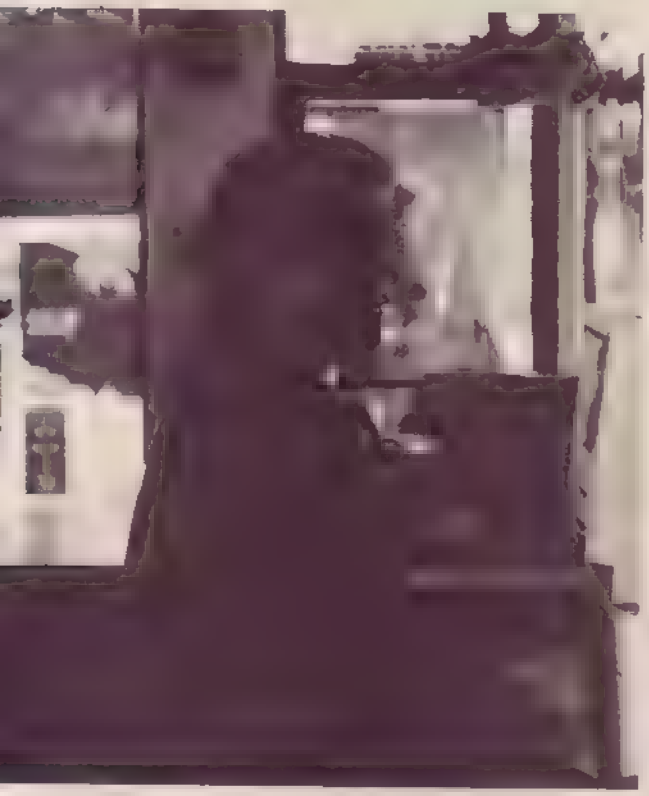

CHAK

BY STRADLEY AND WARNER



RETAILER OF THE MONTH

THIRD MILLENNIUM COMICS 6555 HUNTER DRIVE, SUITE #4 ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928 (707) 585-193



Here's Brian Williams, dazzling us with his technical expertise. (Hey Brian, the "On" switch is underneath!)

The best advertising for any store is a satisfied customer, and that's exactly what Cliff Langlois of Santa Rosa is. Cliff's letter, below, clearly shows why his favorite comic-book retailer is now a Dark Horse "Retailer of the Month"!

My main purpose in taking word processor in hand is to tell you about a local merchant whom I think would make an ideal choice for *Retailer of the Month.* I hereby nominate **Third Millennium Comics** in Rohnert Park, CA for the honors. This is a small shop that hasn't been around long (less than a year) and has to compete against two older, bigger, more well-established shops in the area. One of those is a very large shop owned by the local distributor. Brian Williams, proprietor of Third Millennium, realizes that he cannot match the bigger shop's selection and volume, so he has wisely decided to concentrate on personal attention to the customer, and on *service.* The shop's policy is to make the extra effort and go the extra mile to send the customer out the door happy. I myself live much closer to the bigger, older store, and was a regular weekly customer there for six or seven years — but I now make the long trip to Rohnert Park every Friday to get my books, because I get treated better at Third Millennium.

One Friday last month when I went in I was handed a special invitation, which admitted me to a meeting held at the store after hours — a meeting of about 25 invited customers, at which we were served free pizza and soft drinks while Brian, his wife Vicky, and staffer Big John asked us questions about the store — what we liked about it, what we didn't like, what could be done to make it better, and so on. This kind of interest and dedication is so rare in retailing these days, but Brian, Vicky, and the rest at Third Millennium have real enthusiasm for what they're doing, and are sincerely interested in making their store the best comics shop around. And they're doing it!

The best part of the meeting took place when it was officially over. I looked up from a conversation and saw that all over the store people were pulling out back issues or current releases, opening them up to this particular page or that, and showing them to whomever they were talking to. "You missed this?" and "Oh, this was great — you've gotta see this!" were typical comments. I realized that everyone in that room, including the staff and owners of the shop, were sharing what I can only call the *joy of comics* with each other, which is, after all, the heart of the comics experience. This is the kind of feeling that makes Third Millennium so cool.

Brian, Vicky, Jim, Big John, and all the rest of the staff at Third Millennium always seem genuinely glad to see me when I come in the door. I never feel like just another customer there Because of their energy, enthusiasm, aggressive approach to comics retailing, and the pleasant, personal attention they give to each and every one of their customers, I think you should honor Third Millennium Comics as *Retailer of the Month.*

Superheroically yours,
Cliff Langlois

Cliff also mentioned special discounts, computerized subscription service, promotional giveaways, and the store's generous support of local causes and charities. Sounds like Third Millennium Comics has a loyal customer (and with good reason!). Thanks for the letter, Cliff. Some way cool Dark Horse goodies are on their way to you. Enjoy!

If you know a comics retailer with a difference, let us know! What makes the store special? Be sure to include a photo of the store and/or owner, store name, address, and phone number, and send it to:

Retailer of the Month
c/o Dark Horse Comics
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

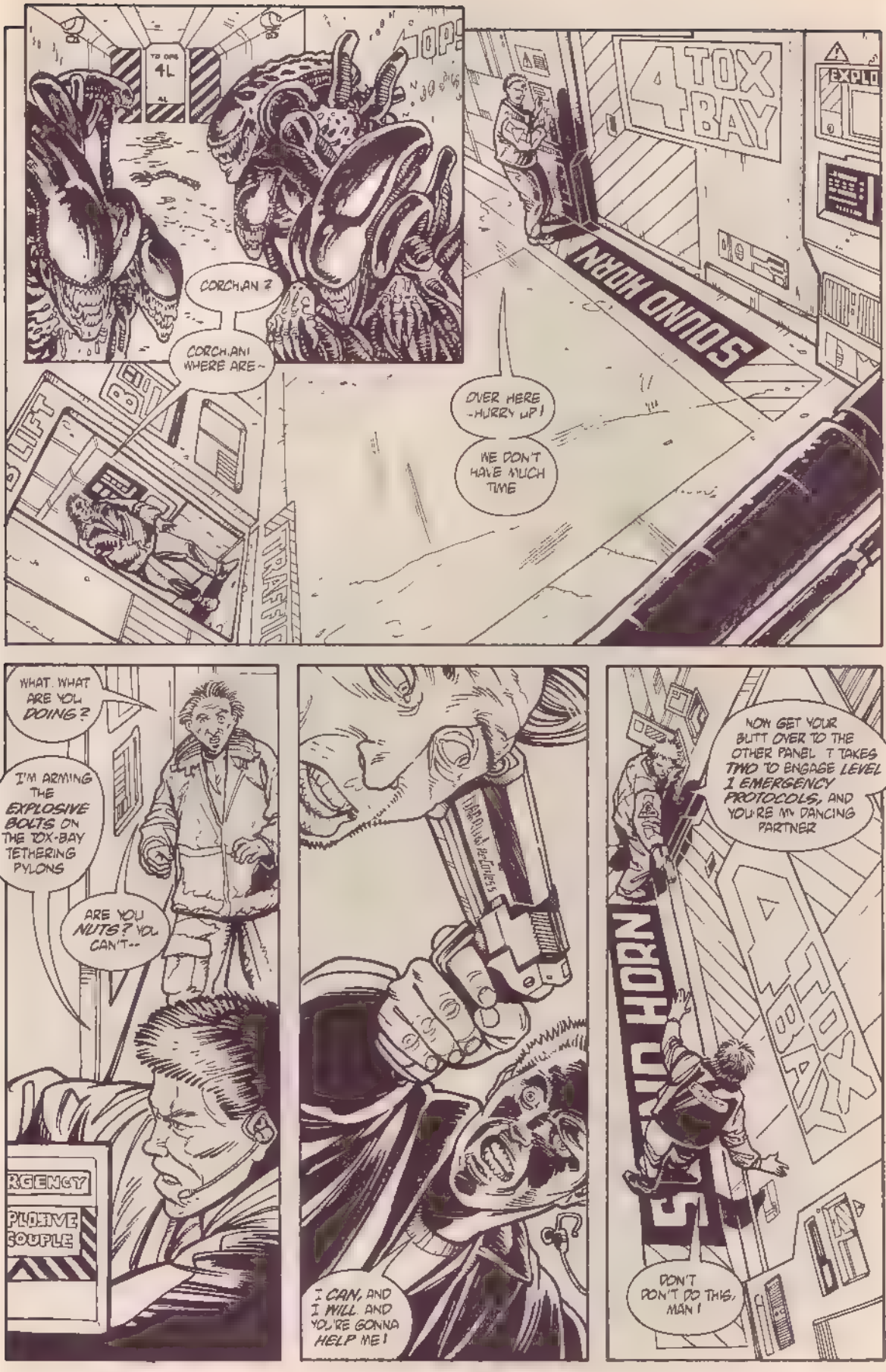
SNEAK PREVIEW

ALIENS™: COLONIAL MARINES

Scripted by **Chris Warner** (*Aliens vs. Predator*), with art by **Tony Akins** and **Paul Guinan** (*DHP, The Terminator, Tempest*), this is the kick-off to a sweeping 12-issue saga that will add a fascinating new wrinkle to the Alien mythos, as well as providing tons of suspense, terror, and all-out action.

Aliens: Colonial Marines #1 ships January 5, 1993.

BLAST
YOU SON OF A BITCH.
YOU ROTTEN CHICKENSHIT SON OF A BITCH.
TO OPS 4-L
YOU COULD HAVE WAITED ANOTHER TEN SECONDS!
ROTTEN CHICKENSHIT STILL BREATHING SON OF A BITCH! TEN MORE SECONDS AND THEY'D HAVE BEEN ALL OVER US.
IT'S MY CALL--I'LL LIVE WITH IT
SOMEDAY, YOU'LL THANK ME FOR--
DEAR GOD.
VINSON!
TAKE A GOOD LONG LOOK ORCHIANI! MAYBE HIS FAMILY WILL THANK YOU FOR--
VINSON
HE'S ALIVE. ALIVE, GOD DAMN YOU!
GET EVERYBODY INTO THE OPERATIONS CENTER NOW!
EMARDT MEET ME ON LEVEL ONE IN FIVE MINUTES
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.


TO DOCK 4L
OP
CORCHANI?
CORCHANI WHERE ARE~
4 TOX BAY
SOUND HORN
EXPLO
LIFT
TRAFFIC
OVER HERE ~HURRY UP!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME
WHAT. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M ARMING THE EXPLOSIVE BOLTS ON THE TOX-BAY TETHERING PYLONS
ARE YOU NUTS? YOU CAN'T--
RGENCY
PLOSIVE
SOUPLE
I CAN, AND I WILL. AND YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME!
NOW GET YOUR BUTT OVER TO THE OTHER PANEL. IT TAKES TWO TO ENGAGE LEVEL 1 EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS, AND YOU'RE MY DANCING PARTNER
SOUND HORN
4 TOX BAY
DON'T DON'T DO THIS, MAN!

FIRE
BOLT
SEEK OUT THE REST OF THE CHILDREN
MAKE THEM READY TO MEET THE FATHER

SCULPTOR RANDY BOWEN BRINGS BAD THINGS TO LIFE

by Bob Cooper

Whether it be "Urrggh!" or "Cool!," Randy Bowen's amazingly detailed sculptures usually elicit an immediate response from people. If the term "lifelike" can be used in reference to a three-dimensional replica of a comic-book character, Bowen's creations are indeed as lifelike as they come.

Like a lot of people either actively involved in the comic-book industry, or simply avid readers of comics, Bowen enjoyed building and painting the Aurora model kits of Frankenstein's monster, Dracula, the Creature from the Black Lagoon, and the Wolfman when he was a kid. He probably snuck at least one copy of Forry Ackerman's *Famous Monsters of Filmland* into his sixth-grade class. Unlike most of us, though, Bowen had a budding artist streak inside him that allowed him to become intimately involved with many of his childhood fantasies. He rhapsodizes over the fact that with his legitimacy as a sculptor now, he has the ability to approach people like Frank Frazetta, Kelley Jones, and Steve Rude.

Randy at work on a cold-cast model of Frankenstein's monster.

Bowen started his professional career as a teenager, doing illustrations for department store displays and the like. Apart from just "playing around" with some bronze sculpture in high school, he'd never really done much sculpting. He'd always loved the horror, science fiction, and comic-book genres, so when a friend who was putting together a line of small fantasy figurines needed another pair of hands to help with the job, Bowen, who wasn't too happy at his job at the time, volunteered to help him out. He shortly discovered that he had an aptitude for this sort of art.

Despite the fact that he had a regular job at the time, Bowen had become enthused enough about sculpting that he was eager to sculpt more than just "fat wizards and dragons." He answered an ad in a magazine called *Fine-Scale Modeler*, and eventually went to work with a company called Lunar Models. It wasn't long before Bowen's modeling work was taking up more time than he was spending at his regular job — and before long he discovered that he could actually make a living at his modeling work alone. The rest, as they say, is of some historical import — at least to those comic-book aficionados who have

marveled at some of his recent work.

As with many of the most successful careers in entertainment or publishing, Bowen's entrée into the comics field came about through a lark. Dark Horse publisher Mike Richardson had spotted a Predator model that Bowen had sculpted in the Las Vegas comic shop Page After Page. Richardson tracked down Bowen and offered him a shot at sculpting a model of Paul Chadwick's Concrete character. Models of Twentieth Century Fox's popular Aliens and Predator characters followed soon after. Since then, Bowen has gone on to produce models of several more comic-book characters, both for Dark Horse and other publishers, including Sandman, Batman, the Mask, and Doc Savage.

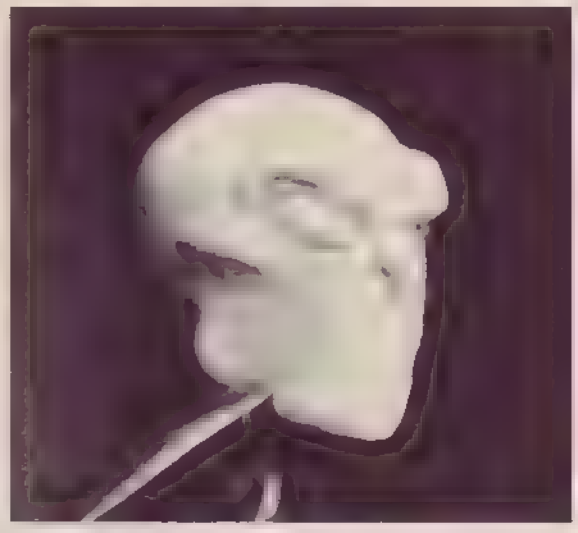
Though Bowen is going to have his hands full with Dark Horse-related projects for, oh . . . about the next 50 years, his Bowen Designs studio is currently working on projects with other clients. Bowen is overseeing projects at the studio, which conceptualizes and designs models that are then farmed out to freelance sculptors for completion. Bowen Designs is working now on a line of figures from a children's book written by Bowen — including a character with the intriguing name of Victor von Schmed. Bowen is also interested in creating his own original monsters, as well as doing writing and illustrating, and he'll still be working on developing projects for other companies, such as DC.

He admits that his prime motivation in coming to work for Dark Horse full-time was so that he could legitimately work on licensed projects that he'd always wanted to do — like new takes on the Universal monsters that he loved as a kid. Of course, none of this would be happening if Richardson wasn't so keen on the garage kit models — Bowen claims that "Mike [Richardson] goes home and builds the old Aurora model kits to relax. He's like a big kid; he just wants to have that favorite toy sitting on his desk." But still, "his biggest concern is putting out a quality project."

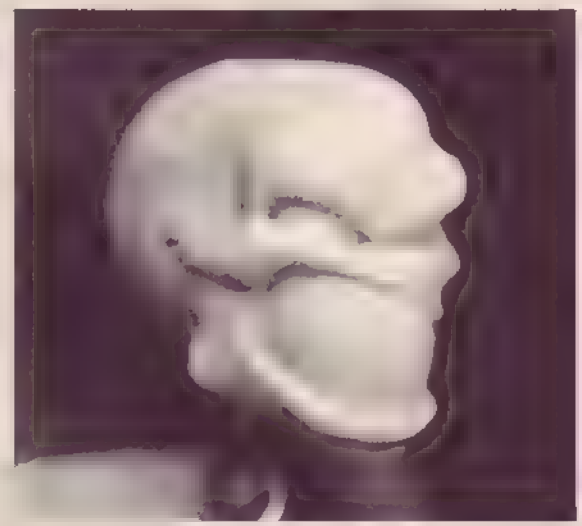
* * * * *

As with all things creative, the idea comes first. The idea for Bowen's Mask figure, as an example, came directly from the cover of the

The first roughed shape of the head of the Mask model, on a temporary wire armature.



The Mask's facial features begin to take shape...



...eventually forming the familiar Mask leer.

Nicely detailed dentition is something a lot of modelers wouldn't bother with.

Dark Horse Comics' *The Mask* #2. After the idea has taken form in Bowen's imagination, he sketches some preliminary poses for the figure. Once he's settled on the pose, he begins his model by building up a wire armature, made with different gauges of aluminum wire — actually building a stick-man skeleton of the figure with the wire. This armature is usually anchored to a wooden base, so Bowen has something to hold on to as he progresses with the figure.

He then builds up the mass of the model on the wire in Super Sculpey (a special modeling clay), first roughing in the sculpture with initial large masses of modeling material, then building up finer and finer detail with muscle groups and other body masses over the armature with the clay. The sculpture is baked at each stage of this build-up in order to stabilize the armature. Bowen tries hard to elicit a realistic flow to the figure, the same way one would with a gesture drawing in art class, so that the model looks as visually exciting as drawings in comic books. According to Bowen, that visual excitement is the element that's usually missing from most modelers' garage kits.

The models are sculpted nude initially, then clothing is added in a later stage. When clothing or draping appears on the figure, the draping should define the sculpture, and not look like "a bunch of cottage cheese." Baking of the sculpture (in a conventional oven at 250° F) is done several times between stages to refine the finish. Following the baking process, the model is sanded and buffed to smooth out any imperfections.

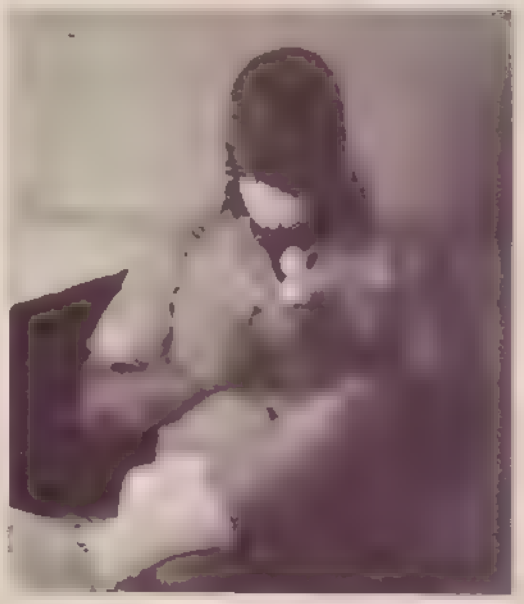
The final sculpted model created by Bowen is simply the guide for creation of a mold. Because of the constraints of the molding process, it is sometimes even necessary to break the final sculpted figure apart, then resculpt it in pieces in order to create a workable mold. Sometimes what comes out of the mold and what Bowen originally created are almost two different things (common problems that occur in the molding process are the appearance of air bubbles, cracking, and actual shrinkage of the model). In any case, the beautifully detailed, fragile sculpture created so painstakingly by Bowen usually doesn't survive the molding process in one piece. He always knows going in that he'll probably get back nothing more than a "bag of rubble" after the mold has been made.

Three master copies of the model are made from the mold — one to be finished and painted for promotional purposes, one to be kept for safe-keeping, and one to make the actual production models from. The mold is made by first bedding down the model so that it is encased partly in a soft, water-based and malleable clay. Silicone rubber is then poured in around the model. After the silicone sets, the water-based clay is scooped out and the process is repeated with the rest of the model

The finished Mask head is now attached to a complete skeletal armature.

until the entire mold is formed (usually in two or three separate pieces).

The final cold-cast models are made from a polyester resin/porcelain powder mixture. The porcelain powder is what gives the models a grainy, glassy feel — what Bowen likes to call "ping." Rather than actual porcelain, which is fired in a hot kiln, cold casting is a chemical process in which the sculpture sets at room temperature. The finished product has the look and feel of porcelain, and is still somewhat brittle (though not nearly as brittle as an actual porcelain figure would be). The actual composition of the cold-cast mixture is constantly being adjusted to try to get rid of the brittleness. Dark Horse realizes that the cost of the cold-cast models is somewhat prohibitive for the average comic-book fan, and things are being done to try to bring the cost down, such as using different manufacturing processes, or possibly having the manufacturing of the models done in Hong Kong.



And the finished product (nice paint job, isn't it?). That's actually the sculptor, who really likes to get into his characters when working.

* * * * *

When you meet Bowen, the most striking thing you'll notice about him is how self-effacing and utterly charming he is. He candidly admits: "I don't feel like I've done my best work yet. I always see every flaw in every sculpture." He speaks of Mr. Hama, of Billiken Models, as the "high priest" of model kits. "When he does a model, it is to the nth degree." Compared to Mr. Hama, Bowen feels that he gets a little sloppy sometimes. Kent Melton, another one of Bowen's heroes, and someone that Bowen looked up to before he got into sculpting, spent four to five months on an acutely detailed model of Nixon, the protagonist of Frank Miller and Geof Darrow's *Hard Boiled*, soon to be released. Bowen laments: "I'm a slob compared to Kent and Dave Stevens. I'm too impatient."

"I feel honored that [my] stuff is out there — that people see it and appreciate it. Money is all well and good, [but] the biggest kick that I get is that people enjoy this stuff for the most part, and that I hear back from them. I think most artists are that way. I would probably pay to do this job (. . . just kidding, Mike)."

What's coming up? Well, from Dark Horse, expect to see the following in the near future: a three-kit set of Predator models with connecting bases, along with a customizing kit which will include the interior of the spaceship shown in the *Predator 2* movie with various trophies and weapons; a slew of the old Universal monsters, including Dracula, the Creature from the Black Lagoon, Wolfman, and Frankenstein's monster, in both regular cold-cast as well as built-up and painted form; 1/35-scale injection-plastic figures of such characters as Aliens and Predators; a cool Nexus figurine; a series of five figurines by Don Martin of *Mad Magazine* fame, including the infamous Captain Klutz; a series of "Dream Queens" figurines based on new drawings by Dave Stevens, and what Bowen calls "the world's first sequential art sculpture," a two-sided diarama based on a Don Martin character.

Look for these Dark Horse figure kits in 1993:

- **Don Martin's "Droll" collectibles (cold-cast)**
- **Dave Stevens' "Dream Queens" series (cold-cast)**
- **Predator 2 diarama series (vinyl)**
- **Nexus figure (cold-cast)**
- **Universal Monsters series (cold-cast)**
- **Alien^3 figure kit (cold-cast)**

FRANKENSTEIN COLD-CAST FIGURE KIT

Universal Pictures' classic Frankenstein's monster returns — this time with the help of Dark Horse Comics and sculptor extraordinaire **Randy Bowen**. This "portrait quality" figure kit captures perfectly the gothic rage portrayed in the classic horror films of the '30s.

The 13-inch tall kit, cast in flawless porcelain resin, comes ready to assemble and paint, and includes real chains with which to bind the monster! Painted box illustration by **John Bolton**.

$99.95 U.S., $124.95 Canada.
13-inch cold-cast figure kit (assembly and painting required), painted box cover.

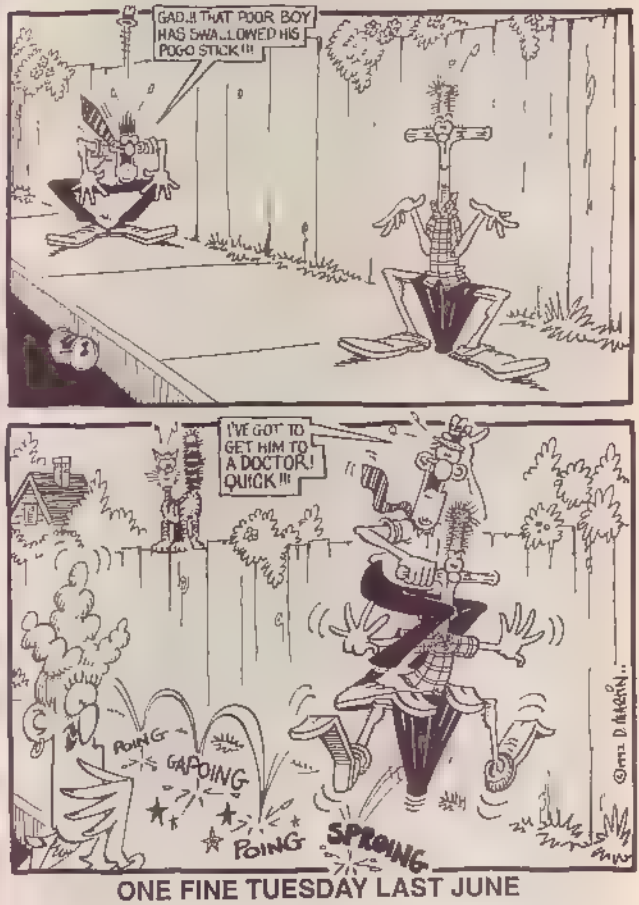
Available December 1992.

DON MARTIN SIGNED & NUMBERED LITHOGRAPH

Don Martin fans rejoice! Don Martin (Don Martin's Droll Book) has produced a new piece in his own inimitable style. "One Fine Tuesday Last June" will be available in time for the holidays. Reproduced on high quality paper in a limited number of 500 copies, each signed and numbered by Don Martin, this lithograph is sure to delight fans of all ages. Each lithograph will be shrink-wrapped on an acid-free board, placed into a cardboard container, and shipped flat.

$49.95 U.S., $65.95 Canada.

Shipping December 1, 1992.



ONE FINE TUESDAY LAST JUNE

DARK HORSE PRESENTS #69

Meet Ross [illegible] when the situation calls for a professional killer. He's just the kind of person the Predators might take an interest in — which is why the government's Predator task force wants him! Next month's *Predator: Race War* debuts as a four-issue color miniseries. Story by novelist **Andrew Vachss** (*Hard Case*), adapted by **Randy Stradley** (*Aliens vs. Predator*) and artists **Jordan Raskin** and **John Beatty** (*Punisher*). Also: **Jo Duffy** and **Maya Sakamoto**'s *Vestibber* preview continues, and the heroine of **Gary Davis**' Paleolove seeks a love potion from Mudwike, the cave painter! Cover by **Ray Lago** (*Hellraiser*).

Suggested for mature readers

$2.25 U.S., $2.75 Canada
32 B&W pages, color cover

Monthly. Shipping December 1, 1992

CHEVAL NOIR #37

In chapter three of Sienkiewicz's **Stray Toasters**, Captain **Andreas** Rork finds that the old road Low Valley is older than he thought. Also: gendarmes patrol an abandoned Alpine village in **Cosey**'s In Search of Peter Pan. The Man from the Cotton **Moebius**' all-new sequel to *The Airtight Garage* continues. **Phil Elliott** has fun with The Conspiracy Theory and **David Lynch**'s The Angriest Dog in the World, plus a mascara Cover painting by **Olivier Vatine** (*Aquablue*). Fred & Bob

Suggested for mature readers

$2.95 U.S., $3.50 Canada
32 B&W pages, painted cover

Monthly. Shipping December 8, 1992

DHP™
DARK HORSE PRESENTS

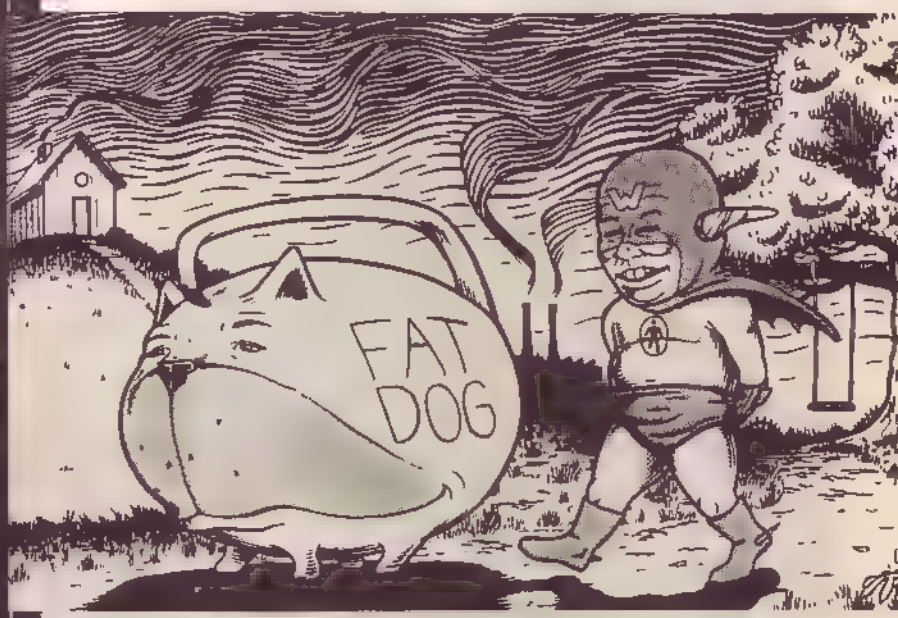
CHEVAL noir™

FAT DOG MENDOZA

Do you like hamburger on a stick? Do you like your martians nude? Do you arc-welding suits? If so seek help. If not, check out *Fat Dog Mendoza*. Dark Horse Comics is pleased to present a tool that will really suck your brain into not since the Terminator has there been a more [illegible] sophisticated man-dog creature like this one! Watch both as the wild adventures of this [illegible] companion, [illegible] as he takes off in the first comic of his very own! Join Fat Dog and his crime-fighting friends The Wonder Siamese Moms, and a host of other characters. This issue also includes a special origin episode! We dare you to enter the sick and twisted reality of *Fat Dog Mendoza* that is *entirely* Scott's fault! You'll be glad you did! These excellently crafted tales are created, written and illustrated by **Scott Musgrove** (*Loose Teeth*). Featuring beautiful front and back cover paintings by Musgrove.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada
32 B&W pages, painted cover

Shipping December 8 1992



DARK HORSE COMICS #5

Tired of fad diets and boring exercise? Dark Horse do the work so you won't have to. Burn fat along with "Mad Dogs & the Loose" by **John Arcudi**, **Andy Dimitt** and **Chris Warner**. The Predator hunts and slims your waist in "Blood Trail" by **Neal Barrett, Jr.** and **Leo Duranona** (*Race of Scorpions*). "Aliens: Horror Show" continues, written by **Sarah Byam** (*Bill! 99*) with art by **David Roach** (*2000 AD*), and the third chapter of "Indiana Jones and the Shrine of the Sea Devil" continues with story and art by **Gary Gianni** (*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, *Hard Looks*). Color Indiana Jones cover painting by Gianni. So good it's good for you.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 color pages, saddle-stitched, painted cover.

Monthly. Shipping December 15, 1992.

FLAMING CARROT COMICS #30

The Flaming Carrot and the Man in the Moon continue to mix it up! Will they end their senseless battle and overcome Fiend? Is time to prevent Aunt Clara and her Crime Kids from stealing human body parts to sell on the black market? Only this issue and the beyond genius mind of creator **Bob Burden** can supply you with the answer!

Suggested for hip readers.

$2.50 U.S., $3.00 Canada.
32 B&W pages, color cover.

Shipping December [illegible]

FLAMING CARROT COMICS ™
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'M GOING TO START SPINNING AND SPINNING.
AND NEVER STOP.
UNTIL THERE'S BLOOD ALL OVER THE WALLS!

NEW TITLES FROM DARK HORSE INTERNATIONAL

Dark Horse International, the newly formed British subsidiary of ye olde Dark Horse Comics, launches the first of its regular monthly titles, featuring the best of Dark Horse U.S.'s licensed comics, together with new features and artwork exclusive to the British edition.

ALIENS VOLUME 2 #1 (U.K. EDITION)

Aliens Volume 2 #1 has a stunning **John Bolton** cover, together with the first episodes of "Aliens: Hive," and "Predator: Cold War." And if that wasn't enough, there are eight pages of all-new features, lavishly illustrated, which haven't been seen in any other publication.

Learn of the tortuous path by which *Alien*^{3} finally made it to the screen, plus info on the British Aliens Fan Club. Two regular features make their debut with this issue — "The Motion Tracker," a survey of the latest Alien news from around the world, and "Technical Readout," an in-depth guide to the hardware used in the *Aliens* movies.

To top it all, there's a special free eight-page comic inside the first issue, featuring a Martha Washington story by **Frank Miller** and **Dave Gibbons**.

$2.95 U.S., $3.50 Canada.
48 color pages, magazine format, color cover.

Shipping December 1, 1992.

DARK • HORSE • INTERNATIONAL

ALIEN^3 MOVIE SPECIAL #1 (U.K. EDITION)

Dark Horse International's U.K. edition of *Alien*^{3} provides a whole bundle of extra features, on top of Dark Horse's own official comic-book adaptation of the movie. The comic features scenes never seen in the original movie, courtesy of writer **Steven Grant**, penciller **Christopher Taylor**, and inker **Rick Magyar**. This story has already seen publication in the U.S., but there are plenty of original and exclusive features never seen anywhere else.

These include an in-depth look at the making of *Alien*^{3}, complete with behind-the-scenes photos, an overview of the *Alien*^{3} model kits, plus "20 Things You Never Knew About the Movie," and an interview with special effects supremo, **Stephen Norrington**.

This issue also has a special free gift — a pull-out centerfold poster featuring a shot from the movie.

$2.95 U.S., $3.50 Canada.
44 color pages, magazine format, color cover.

Note: Limited to a print run of 10,000 copies.

Monthly. Shipping December 7, 1992.

STARTING GATE: 1993 PREVIEWS

The year 1992 was the greatest one yet for Dark Horse Comics and Dark Horse readers. We've brought you the best in action adventure, superheroes, science fiction, fantasy, manga, and more, by some of the most talented writers and artists from around the world. From cutting-edge anthologies to classic literary adaptations, from horror to humor, no one does it quite like Dark Horse!

If you enjoyed this year's great mix of Dark Horse comics, wait 'til you see what we've lined up for 1993! Here are just a *few* of the hot titles coming your way in the next few months:

January jump-starts the new year with one of Dark Horse's all-time favorites — *Aliens. Aliens: Colonial Marines* #1 kicks off a sweeping 12-issue saga that will add a fascinating new wrinkle to the *Alien* mythos. Writer **Chris Warner** (*Aliens vs. Predator*) and artists **Tony Akins** and **Paul Guinan** (*The Terminator: Tempest*) create an action-packed *Aliens* tale that will leave you breathless!

In February Predator moves to the most dangerous hunting ground on the planet... the Paloverde State Penitentiary in Arizona. *Predator: Race War* is a four-issue series with story by novelist **Andrew Vachss** (*Blossom, Sacrifice*) and script by **Randy Stradley**. Hot newcomer **Jordan Raskin** provides pencils, **Bob Wiacek** (*X-Men*) lays down the inks, and **Dave Dorman** paints the killer covers. Editor **Jerry Prosser** advises that a three-chapter prologue to *Predator: Race War* appears in *Dark Horse Presents* #67-69.

Terminal Point is a three-issue series that also begins in February. **Bruce Zick** (*The Zone Continuum*) provides the script, the illustration, the cover — the whole shebang! The tale's protagonist, a web runner constructing a network of time-travel points for the Terminus Council, uncovers a dark and disturbing purpose behind the assignment he's been given, and commits himself to destroy the Council's evil plans. If you like stories filled with suspense, intrigue, and time travel, you'll love *Terminal Point*!

March comes in like a lion with an all-new James Bond adventure — *James Bond 007: A Silent Armageddon*. This four-issue bimonthly series is written by **Simon Jowett**, with painted interiors and covers by **John Burns**. Has 007 met his match with Omega, a computer that has acquired the most valuable possession of all — consciousness? Bond turns to a most unexpected source for help. Don't miss this surprising story!

A research space station on an isolated asteroid is the setting for *Aliens: Rogue*, a four-issue series by British writer **Ian Edginton** (*The Terminator: The Enemy Within*) and artist **Will Simpson** (*Hellblazer*). The Zajer-Conn Tech Corporation is experimenting with Alien DNA, but to what purpose? And to what bloody end? The first issue of this "must-read" series is scheduled to ship in April.

RoboCop finds more trouble than he bargained for when he goes to Denver in pursuit of a man who's stolen valuable OCP data — data about RoboCop himself! *RoboCop: Mortal Coils* is a four-issue series written by **Steven Grant** (*Badlands*), with pencils by talented newcomer **Nick Gnozza** and inks by **Ruth Patterson**. A lead-in to the story is featured in *Dark Horse Comics* #6-7, notes editor **Anina Bennett**. Look for *RoboCop: Mortal Coils* #1 in April.

That's just a small sampling of what's ahead in 1993. You can also look forward to more of your favorites, like *Concrete, Star Wars, Nexus, The Thing from Another World*, and *John Byrne's Next Men*, plus exciting new projects such as **Andrew Vachss**' *Underground* anthology, **Frank Miller**'s *Sin City Blues, Rascals in Paradise* by **James Silke**, *Pumpkinhead*, and much more. Our *Modern Classics* series continues with *Dead in the West*, and for those of you who just can't get enough of *Aliens* and/or *Predator*, more series are on the way. Get ready for another fabulous year from Dark Horse Comics!

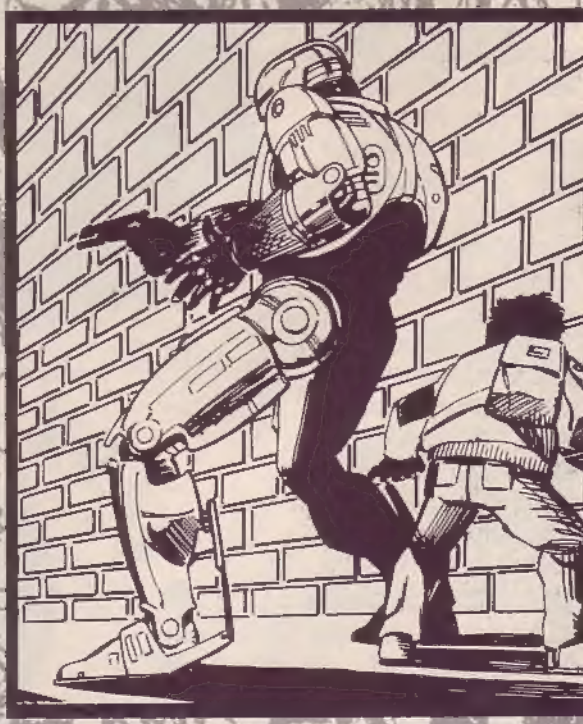


Illustration from *RoboCop: Mortal Coils*. Background screen taken from preliminary sketch from *Aliens: Rogue*.

INSIDE OUT

COMING IN FEBRUARY

***TERMINAL POINT* #1**
ART BY BRUCE ZICK.

SHIPPING JANUARY 5

Aliens: Colonial Marines #1
Classic Star Wars #6
Dark Horse Presents #70
Grendel: War Child #6
Nexus: Alien Justice #2
Ring of Roses #3

SHIPPING JANUARY 12

Caravan Kidd #7
Cheval Noir #38
John Byrne's Next Men #11
Propellerman #1
The Venus Wars 2 #8
The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles #11

SHIPPING JANUARY 19

Herbie #5
RoboCop: Prime Suspect #4
Spacehawk #5
Version #1.2

SHIPPING JANUARY 26

Dark Horse Comics #6
Hard Looks #6
Orion #3

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